

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 21, 2005. Claims 2 to 9 are in the application, with Claim 5 being independent. Claims 5 and 9 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of written description support. Claims 2 to 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendments made to Claim 5.

Claims 2 to 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,203,608 (Sun) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,244,742 (Ogi). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sun. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sun in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,247,799 (Sakamaki). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, a process for performing a purification operation on all materials to be used for preparing a sol-gel composition for forming a piezoelectric element.

Sun and Ogi, either alone or in combination, are not seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

Sun and Ogi are merely seen to describe the purification of the organometallic compound component of the film-forming composition. It is Applicants' understanding that the other materials used for preparing the composition are not purified.

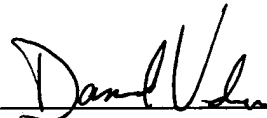
Sakamaki is not seen to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Sun and Ogi.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damond E. Vadnais", is written over a horizontal line.

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